

Gentlemen:

Our members have found it increasingly more difficult, cumbersome and costly to comply with government and airline requirements for shipping animals since the September 11 tragedy. Those of us who breed and show our animals worry that additional layers of restrictions and red tape heaped upon the airlines will result in our inability to continue to avail ourselves of the vital transportation options.

Specifically, we object to the following points in this Rulemaking:

- a) Those of us who ship with some frequency were not consulted in the drafting. National organizations that represent our interests, such as the American Veterinary Medical Association, the American Kennel Club and The Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc. should have been allowed input.
- b) We believe that only dogs and cats should be included in these Rules. Specific needs and hazards involving reptiles, rodents and exotic (perhaps delicate or dangerous) pets should be considered separately.
- c) We strongly object to inclusion of the controversial and insulting term "guardian" in any regulation or statute, and to the identification requirement, both of which are part of an extremist agenda that opposes buying, selling or shipping of animals.

Our members not only support, but also have a significant vested interest in safe air travel for our pets. In the case of show animals, that vested interest goes beyond the natural emotional attachment to our pets, and can represent large amounts of money and sometimes years of careful, selective breeding that often cannot be reproduced. We believe that properly conceived reporting procedures will show that airlines are more scrupulous in this aspect of their business than the American public has been led to believe, and that this rule, represents overkill that was never intended by the legislators who voted for the bill. This rule, as written, is confusing, poorly drafted and unreasonable.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns.

Sincerely,
Anna Sadler, Director